

What is claimed is:

1. In a decision support system, an interface for generating drill-through paths comprising:
  - 5 (a) means for accepting a request from a user for data;
  - (b) means for translating the request into a drill-through path selected from a plurality of possible drill-through paths between a source and a target;
  - (c) optional means for applying one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce a valid drill-through path and to transfer the requested data over the valid drill-through path to an application; and
  - (d) display means for displaying the requested data to the user.
2. A computer-based method for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the method comprising the steps of:
  - 15 in a business modeling tool before using a business intelligence application,
    - (a) modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each drill-through path having one or more parameter mappings;
  - 20 in a business intelligence application, using a report authoring tool,
    - (b) accepting a request from a user for data;
    - (c) translating the request into a drill-through path selected from the possible drill-through paths between the source and the target;
    - (d) applying one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce
  - 25 a valid parameter mapping and transferring the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to an application; and
  - (e) displaying the requested data to a user.
3. A computer-based method for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system wherein there is an a business intelligence application, using a report authoring tool, which accepts a

request from a user for data, translates the request into a drill-through path selected from the possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, applies one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping and transfers the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to an application, and

5 displays the requested data to a user, the method comprising:

(a) modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each drill-through path having one or more parameter mappings.

10 4. A computer-based method for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system wherein there is a tool to model the mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each drill-through path having one or more parameter mappings, the method comprising the steps of:

15 (a) accepting a request from a user for data;  
(b) translating the request into a drill-through path selected from the possible drill-through paths between the source and the target;  
(c) applying one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping and transferring the requested data over the valid  
20 parameter mapping to an application; and  
(d) displaying the requested data to a user.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the translating step includes the steps of:

25 (a) creating a list of parameters (query items) from source and target reports;  
(b) for each source parameter, determining a parameter mapping that maps the parameter to the target and collecting them as a single drill-through path;  
(c) if more than one parameter mapping points to the same target parameter then duplicating the parameter mapping one for each duplicate target path, thereby avoiding conflicts in forming the filter path; and  
30 (d) continuing to duplicate the parameter mappings until all the parameter mappings for each drill-through path point to unique target parameters.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the source and the target are each of types which are selected from a group consisting of report and model.
- 5 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the source is of a type selected from a group consisting of report and model and the target is a cube derived from a dimension map using a transformation tool.
- 10 8. The method of claim 5 wherein the drill-through path is defined by Uniform Resource Locator (URL).
9. The method of claim 5 wherein the drill-through path is defined by an HTML FORM.
- 15 10. A computer-based system for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the system comprising:
  - (a) means for modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each drill-through path having one or more parameter mappings;
  - 20 (b) means for accepting a request from a user for data;
  - (c) means for translating the request into a drill-through path selected from the possible drill-through paths between the source and the target;
  - (d) means for applying one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping and to transfer the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to the application; and
  - 25 (e) display means for displaying the requested data to a user.
- 30 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the means for translating further comprises:
  - (a) means for creating a list of parameters (query items) from source and target reports;

(b) means for determining, for each source parameter, a parameter mapping that maps the parameter to the target;

(c) means for collecting the parameter mappings as a single drill-through path; and

(c) means for duplicating the parameter mappings one for each duplicate target path

5 to avoid conflicts in forming the filter path.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the source and the target are each of types which are selected from a group consisting of report and model.

10 13. The system of claim 10 wherein the source is of a type selected from a group consisting of report and model and the target is a cube derived from a dimension map using a transformation tool.

14. The system of claim 10 wherein the drill-through path is defined by a Uniform

15 Resource Locator (URL).

15. The system of claim 10 wherein the drill-through path is defined by an HTML FORM template.

20 16. An apparatus for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the apparatus comprising:

(a) means for modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each drill-through path having one or more parameter mappings;

25 (b) means for accepting a request from a user for data;

(c) means for translating the request into a drill-through path selected from the one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target;

(d) means for applying one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping and to transfer the requested data over the

30 valid parameter mapping to the application; and

(e) display means for displaying the requested data to the user.

17. Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the code comprising,

5 (a) code for modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each drill-through path having one or more parameters;

10 (b) code for accepting a request from a user for data;

(c) code for translating the request into a drill-through selected from the one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target;

(d) code for applying one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping and to transfer the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to the application; and

(e) code for displaying the requested data to the user.